Serial No. 10/087,848

Docket No.: 122.1495

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-13 and 15-19 have been amended. Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, and 4-21 are pending and under consideration.

In accordance with the foregoing, the independent claims 8 and 15 have been amended in similar fashion to include the limitations of claim 3/1, which has been cancelled, and further to include a recitation (from "an automatic deletion exception..." to the end of the claim, in each instance) having support at page 8, lines 2-7 in the specification. Independent claims 5, 12 and 19 have each been amended to include a limitation based on the disclosure at page 8, lines 1-7, and which is also included in claims 1, 8 and 15, as above noted.

Claim 4/3 has been amended to claim 4/1, consistent with the cancellation of claim 3.

No new matter is added in the foregoing claim amendments, and accordingly, approval and entry of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

PAGES 2-3 OF ACTION: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-21 FOR ANTICIPATION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(e) BY HOCHMUTH (USP 6,377,286)

Each of the independent claims is respectfully submitted to patentably distinguish over the reference. Particularly, each includes the limitation of:

"and an automatic deletion exception information in the startup record does not indicate that the shortcut icon file should not be deleted."

This feature prevents shortcuts of application programs, that are supposed to be executed (for example, on a routine basis such as once every six months), from being indiscriminately deleted.

The safeguard is not taught by nor suggested in Hochmuth.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims patentably distinguish over the reference and rejection of record and, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Serial No. 10/087.848

Docket No.: 122.1495

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner Is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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> hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 STAAS & HALSEY

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